GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014
RELICS AND REMNANTS OF INDIAN CULTURE
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether remains of relics and remnants of historical importance reflecting Indian culture are reportedly lying in various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any Committee or conducted any survey to find out these relics and remnants;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the findings of the Committee, if any; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring back such articles from these countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.209 FOR 08.12.2014 REGARDING RELICS AND REMNANTS OF INDIAN CULTURE

(a) to (b) As per records available, there are eleven cases of remnants of historical importance lying in various foreign countries. Details are at Annexure I.

(c) to (d) No, Madam.

(e) Twelve antiquities have been retrieved from different countries (Annexure II).

As per existing procedure for retrieval, whenever any object is considered to be retrieved from abroad, a team of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) represe- ntative is deputed to verify its authenticity and take over the object from the country it is retrieved. Thereafter the object is accompanied by the team under proper insurance coverage and handed over/sent to its place of origin.

A per the provisions of UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) in 1977, issues of retrieval is also taken up with the state parties of UNESCO Convention.